

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 10, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 3, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Final Inspection (All Work Complete), Peerless Plating
Superfund Site, Muskegon, Michigan**

On April 26, 2002, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality conducted the final inspection and determined that all work is complete, the remedy is operational and functional, and all items on the punch list have been accomplished. The selected remedy called for the demolition of the Peerless Plating building; pumping and treating contaminated groundwater via chemical precipitation and air stripping; in-situ vapor extraction of the organic compounds in soil; excavation and off-site disposal of soils contaminated with inorganic compounds above the cleanup levels; and, groundwater monitoring.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

Settlement Reached, The Elco Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio

On April 29, 2002, the U.S. EPA filed a joint Administrative Complaint and Consent Agreement and Final Order against The Elco Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio. The alleged violations are

of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103 and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 304. On October 18, 2000, the facility had a 79-pound release of chlorine, which is a hazardous substance under CERCLA and an extremely hazardous substance under EPCRA with a reportable quantity of 10 pounds. This release was 7.9 times the reportable quantity. The Elco Corporation called the National Response Center, the State Emergency Response Commission, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee on October 19, 2000, about 15 hours late. The Elco Corporation has agreed to pay a cash penalty of \$7,647.76 (\$2,549.25 for the CERCLA violation and \$5,098.51 for the EPCRA violations). Additionally, they will conduct a \$40,000 supplemental environmental project (SEP) to build a secondary containment around the acid storage tanks and move their hydrochloric acid scrubber into the containment area. Before the Agency action, they conducted a \$44,740.96 environmental beneficial project (EBP), which included redesigning their chlorine handling system so that they do not have to heat the chlorine before introducing it into the process and they can use liquid chlorine in the process. The total cash outlay for The Elco Corporation will be \$92,388.72. The Elco Corporation will have 30 days to pay the cash penalty and 90 days to complete the SEP.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Administrative Complaint Filed, Onyx Environmental Services, LLC, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

On April 29, 2002, U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against Onyx Environmental Services, LLC, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. The Complaint alleges a violation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103. On July 2, 2001, at 11:00 a.m., a truck, the facility, hauling hazardous waste had a 15,720 pound release of Unlisted Hazardous Waste Characteristic of Corrosivity. Unlisted Hazardous Waste Characteristic of Corrosivity is a hazardous substance under CERCLA with a reportable quantity of 100 pounds. This release was 157 times the Reportable Quantity (RQ). The company has cleaned up where the release occurred. The release occurred during the transportation of the waste material at a Libertyville, Illinois, Roadside Oasis. Onyx Environmental Services called the National Response Center on July 2, 2001,

at 3:00 p.m. Onyx Environmental Services, LLC is in compliance with Sections 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The proposed penalty in the complaint is \$20,454. Onyx Environmental Services, LLC will have 30 days to respond to the Complaint.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Oil Spill Exercise, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On May 2, 2002, an oil spill exercise was conducted in Milwaukee under the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP). It was industry-lead, and in the U.S. Coast Guard zone. The participating industry was the Construction Resources Management, (CRM) Inc., Marine Center Asphalt Bulk Storage Facility, which is located on the Kinnickinnic River near Lake Michigan. The CRM facility is a liquid asphalt storage terminal from which asphalt is transferred from or to tanks, trucks, railroad tank cars, barges, or ships. The scenario for the exercise had lightning striking a 2,268,000 gallon asphalt storage tank, causing a zipper rip in the tank from which asphalt entered the slip next to the tank. The lightning strike hit with enough force to ignite the remaining asphalt in the tank.

The response was conducted by CRM, but many local, State, and Federal agencies were involved in the exercise. These agencies included the Milwaukee Fire, Police, and Public Health Departments; Milwaukee County Emergency Management and Sheriffs Department; Wisconsin Emergency Management and Department of Natural Resources; U.S. Coast Guard; Fish and Wildlife Service; and, U.S. EPA. The exercise was considered a good demonstration of interagency cooperation to protect the public and the environment. U.S. EPA representatives who participated in the exercise were On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl, who was on the design team and was an evaluator, and OSC Fred Micke who was a player.

Contacts: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)
Fred Micke (312-886-5123)

Meeting, U.S. EPA Counter-Terrorism, Chicago, Illinois

During the week of April 30 through May 2, 2002, the Regional Counter-Terrorism (CT) Points of Contact, along with the Environmental Response Team and Headquarters (HQ), met in Chicago to discuss technical issues related to chemical, biological, and radiological terrorism response. The CT technical group was created to discuss and provide recommendations on sampling, equipment, training, and health & safety issues for On-Scene Coordinators. The CT group meets periodically to discuss these issues.

Contact: Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

Exercise Kick-off Meeting, Romulus, Michigan

On April 30, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), represented U.S. EPA Region 5 at the meeting, held in the Romulus, Michigan, Emergency Operation Center. The purpose of the meeting was the establishment of a planning workgroup for a hazardous material table top exercise to take place later this year. The Romulus Emergency Manager, representatives from the Romulus Fire Department, Oakland Annapolis Hospital, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) Contractor Christopher Greene, and the Woodbridge Romulus Corporation attended the meeting. Mr. Cekus provided a briefing that focused upon using a facility's Clean Air Act Amendments Risk Management Plan alternative release scenario as the incident driving an exercise of the Local Emergency Planning Committee's contingency plan. Topics such as the simulated chemical released, downwind receptors, other response organization "players," and logistics were discussed, along with exercise control and evaluation functions. After the meeting, Mr. Cekus and Mr. Greene visited the Woodbridge Romulus facility to get an initial visual reference for the exercise scenario.

Contact: Glen Cekus (312-353-6449)

Ohio-West Virginia Ohio River Focus Workgroup, Marietta, Ohio

On April 30, 2002, the Ohio-West Virginia Ohio River Focus Workgroup met in Marietta, Ohio. The Workgroup includes representatives from U.S. EPA Regions 3 and 5; U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID); the Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Coast Guard-Huntington; the Ohio

Environmental Protection Agency; Ohio Department of Natural Resources; West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO); and, TetraTech and Ecology & Environment under the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contract to U.S. EPA Regions 3 and 5, respectively. The agenda included a Geographic Information System (GIS) presentation, an Agency roundtable discussion on issues, and reports on recent spills. Ann Whelan gave a presentation on unannounced exercises. Ms. Whelan also discussed the work the U.S. EPA Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support (FIELDS) team had done on the Indiana Harbor Canal to identify outfalls. The group decided that they were interested in pursuing a similar project. This will be the first project

undertaken by the group, who up until now had been a coordinating group.

Contact: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation (Ralph Dollhopf, Jason El-Zein, Linda Nachowicz, Phillipa Cannon, Mick Hans), Response to the World Trade Center Attack, New York, New York

In a letter, dated April 15, 2002, Jane M. Kenny, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 2, expressed appreciation to Thomas V. Skinner, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 5, as follows:

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to you and your senior management for supporting Region 2 during our response to the World Trade Center attack. I have been told of the extraordinary contribution and dedication that your staff devoted to this effort, and I am proud that we are part of an agency that can come together as a team, without bureaucratic boundaries, in the face of real crisis. To afford a small item of gratitude, I have enclosed special emergency response mementos for 9-11-01 World Trade Center contributions for the following employees:

Ralph Dollhopf
Jason El-Zein
Linda Nachowicz
Phillipa Cannon
Mick Hans

May I ask that you distribute them along with the enclosed letters and offer my deepest gratitude. Thank you for assisting me in recognizing their exceptional efforts. Please know you can call upon Region 2 to support you whenever you may face an overwhelming work effort."

Contacts: Ralph Dollhopf (734-692-7682)
Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)
Linda Nachowicz (312-886-6337)
Phillipa Cannon (312-353-6218)
Mick Hans (312-353-5050)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Mike Cook (OERR)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers